No. G. 63-71—G. M. 348-06-2, DATED BANGALORE, 3RD JULY 1907.

ORDER.—Appended hereto is a copy of the revised rules (and its accompaniments) regarding the decipherment and publication of Indian inscriptions on stone and copper and the custody thereof, received with the First Assistant to the Hon'ble the Resident's Letter No. 4447, dated the 26th June 1907. These rules will be substituted for those communicated in Government Proceedings No. G. 4098-106—G. M. F. 286-2, dated the 12th January 1905.

2. All discoveries of inscriptions in the State should be reported to the Officer in charge of Archæological Researches in Mysore.

3. The Inspector-General of Education is requested to obtain a report from the Officer in charge of Archæological Researches as to what arrangements have been made for the publication of any new inscriptions which may have been discovered in the State, and forward it to Government at an early date.

C. S. BALASUNDARAM IYER,
Offg. Secy. to Govt., Gen. & Rev. Depts.

To—The Deputy Commissioners of Districts.
The Inspector-General of Education in Mysore, for information and communication to the Officer in charge of Archæological Researches.

Rules regarding the decipherment and publication of Indian inscriptions on stone and copper and regarding their custody.

I. The discovery of any inscription should at once be reported in the accompanying form to the Archæological Superintendent of the province in which it is found. Full particulars should be given as to the disposal of the inscription pending further instructions; and, if it is not the property of Government or cannot be placed in the custody of Government officers, report should be made as to what steps are being or can be taken to secure either the original or an impression of it. If possible, an impression of the inscription should be obtained according to the directions contained in the accompanying memorandum and forwarded along with the report.

II. The Archæological Superintendent on receiving news of any discovery should immediately report the find and its character to the Government Epigraphist, suggesting the best arrangement for its decipherment, whether by himself, by reference to a European scholar, or in any other way, and forwarding, if possible, preliminary copies.

III. It will be open to the Government Epigraphist on receiving the report referred to in rule II, to require that the decipherment of the inscription be made by such agency as he thinks fit; but in the absence of good reason to the contrary (which should be explained to the local Government), preference will be given to the Epigraphist of the province in which the inscription has been discovered.

IV. In the absence of special orders, all epigraphical matter will be published in the *Epigraphia Indica* or, in certain cases, in the annual reports (local or general) of the Archæological Department, but manuscript copies, impressions, squeezes, etc., of inscriptions may, prior to publication in India, be submitted to scholars in Europe for information as well as for advice or decipherment. It must, however, be made clear, in such cases, that the inscriptions are not to be published *in extenso* in Europe prior to their appearance in the *Epigraphia Indica* or in the Archæological Reports. There will be no objection, however, to brief announcements of interesting discoveries or short preliminary notices of their character being made in European journals, etc.

V. The local Archæological Superintendent will, in the case of both stone and copper inscriptions, forward, if required, two good ink-impressions to the Government Epigraphist.

VI. The Government Epigraphist will, as soon as possible, after receipt of impressions or plates intended for publication in the *Epigraphia Indica*, return to the sender a short abstract of the contents of each inscription.

VII. Inscriptions attached to buildings or monuments ought on no account to be separated from them, unless for some special reason, such as risk of their being lost or destroyed.

VIII. Care should be taken to retain for deposit in some selected museum, all moveable originals which belong to, or are acquired by, the Local Government.

The museum selected will ordinarily be that of the province in which the inscription was discovered. Exception may be made to this rule when the storage of the inscriptions elsewhere is found to be advisable in order to complete an already existing collection, or for other special reasons.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

INSCRIPTION FORM.

To be filled in and addressed to the Archæological Superintendent.

1. Province or State.
2. District.
3. Tahsil.
4. Town or village
5. Exact site.
6. Nature of inscribed object.
7. Language.
8. Character.
9. Condition.
10. Size.
11. Custody.
12. Accessibility.
13. Local information.
14. Special notes.

Date 190 . *Name and designation of informant.*

DIRECTIONS FOR FILLING IN THE ABOVE FORM.

1—4. The names of localities should be given both in the Roman and in the Nagari or Persian character, written as plainly as possible.

5. The site should be described with such accuracy as to enable anybody to find the spot without difficulty.

6 It should be stated whether the inscription is on a building (and if so, its nature and name and the place of the inscription should be added) or on a rock, stone, metal plate or other object.

7—8. If no reliable information is available, these items should be left blank.

9. Here state whether much worn or erased, imperfect, in good condition, faint, etc.

10. Here state the size of the stone, slab or plate on which the inscription is found, and the number and length of the lines of which it consists.

11. If known, state designation of officer, trustee or custodian of shrine, etc.

12. Here simply state "easy" or "difficult." If "difficult," state in the special notes the reason, *i.e.*, whether from natural circumstances of situation or from the attitude of the custodian.

13. Here simply state "see statement attached" or "none." If any statement is attached state in it any story connected with the inscription, and if it can be read locally, what the reader has to say of its contents.

I. INSCRIPTIONS ON STONE.

PROCESS A.

1. First clean the stone thoroughly, washing and removing all dust, dirt, grease, moss or other excrescence from its surface. Use no force in this process; make no attempt to render a letter or sign clearer by the use of a chisel or any attempt to "improve" the writing. Do not ink or blacken the surface of the stone so as to render the letters clearer, as, although this may help you, it injures the stone and makes it difficult for others to use it properly.

2. Take a sheet of printing paper, such as is commonly used for newspapers of the better class, and thoroughly soak it in water, for some minutes. For rough inscriptions use ordinary country-made paper.

3. Before placing it on the stone soak the stone itself well with water.

4. Take the sheet of paper by the four corners and place it as evenly as you or your assistant can manage on the surface of the stone. It will adhere of itself as long as it is wet

5. Take a stiff brush, dabber or handkerchief and commence beating the paper smartly from the centre outwards so as to get rid of all air-bubbles. Go on beating until the paper has taken the exact shape of the stone and followed every hollow and inequality. It will crack and split in many places if the inscription is cut deeply or the inequalities of the surface are great, in which case a second and, if necessary, a third sheet should be laid wet over the first and the beating be repeated.

6. Do not try and pull the paper off the stone when the beating process is over. When it is dry it will come off of itself. In India, in dry weather, the tendency is for the paper to dry off before the beating process is over.

7. When the beating process is finished, you will find that you have made a paper-cast or stereotype of the original stone. This will, when dry, be quite hard and capable of resisting considerable pressure. All that is required for packing is to roll it up and to take care that it does not get wet.

8. If the sheets are not large enough to cover the whole stone, which will frequently be the case, repeat the above process over different parts of the stone, taking care that each sheet overlaps its neighbours so that its proper place can afterwards be easily determined.

9. Like every mechanical process the above requires a certain amount of practice before it can be done well. In order to ensure accuracy and to enable the reproducer to correct errors in the sheets selected for reproduction, it is best, if practicable, to take three impressions of every part of the stone.

10. Intelligent native servants can be taught the process without much difficulty.

PROCESS B.

1. This process can be employed at the same time as Process A, and will greatly increase the value of the impression; but it requires special materials and more experience than the above.

2. Take an ordinary printer's ink-roller, pass it after inking it, with *uniform pressure* over the paper while it is still on the stone and still slightly damp, but not wet. A dabber of cotton wool covered with leather or kid can be specially made for the purpose. The raised parts will thus come out black and every depression or inequality will appear white. Minute accuracy can be obtained by this process.

3. The paper should then be left to dry on the stone as before, and can be rolled up for packing without fear.

The ink to be used can be either Persian ink obtainable from any bazaar, or a mixture of lamp-black, gum and water. Care should be taken to use the right quantity: too much ink will blur the impression, too thick ink will rip the paper off the stone, too thin ink will spoil your impression, so will a too great or an uneven pressure of the roller.

II. INSCRIPTIONS ON METAL.

Inscribed plates of copper should preferably be sent to the office of the local Archæological Superintendent for reproduction, after which they will be returned immediately. In case the owner of the plate objects to such a course, the following process should be followed:—

1. Wash the plate with soap and water. If this fails, a weak nitric acid solution may be tried and applied very carefully so as not to injure the plate; but the use of acid being dangerous, is not recommended.

2. When dry, go over the plate with printer's ink and a dabber. A very good dabber is made with a big cork, over the end of which is stretched a piece of kid with a little pad of cotton between. Printer's ink can be had from any press. A little ink should be poured on a piece of glass, and spread out and worked over with the dabber until the latter is evenly coated before it is applied to the plate.

3. When this is done, get your paper ready. Thick soft paper is best, such as good thick cartridge or drawing paper. Cut the paper a few inches all round larger than the plate. Lay the latter face down upon the paper, after damping the latter, and fold the paper over the back of the plate. This effectually prevents it from moving. If the plate is provided with a ring, a hole should be cut in the paper and a slit made for the ring to pass through.

4. Turn the plate face up, and, with a piece of hard smooth foolscap paper between, commence to rub the back of the paper evenly all over with the top of a glass stopper of a bottle. The paper must be kept damp throughout by laying a folded damp towel over the parts you are not working on. Then remove the paper carefully and let it dry. The prints are reverses, but these are reversed again when photographed for publication.

5. After taking the impression, the plate should be thoroughly cleaned with spirits of turpentine and then brushed with soap-water, so as to remove all traces of printing ink.